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# Kepone hazard lingers

By JIM ELDER  
of the Mirror staff

STATE COLLEGE — The Spring Creek chapter of Trout Unlimited in Spring Creek and its subsequent impact on fishing.

Ronald G. Evans, the club president, said Friday that contamination of Spring Creek by Kepone was unfortunate. But, he said, it has focused attention on other problems emanating from Nease Chemical.

"Nease Chemical has been an ongoing problem concerning contamination of Spring Creek," he said. "This is the fifth or sixth time (the company has contaminated the creek), it's unconscionable."

There have been runoffs from the plant into Spring Creek as potentially hazardous as Kepone, Evans said.

Harold Klotz, vice-president of Nease Chemical, said Friday, "each (incident in the past) was of some accidental nature, such as a break in a hose."

A study of fish taken from Spring Creek in September showed levels of Kepone and Mirex, both pesticides, in excess of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) acceptable levels.

Nease Chemical manufactured Kepone in

1958 and 1963. The company manufactured Mirex, which breaks down into Kepone in the environment, in 1973 and 1974.

More extensive tests were completed by the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this winter.

Theodore Clista, a DER engineer, said Friday that Nease Chemical submitted a proposal for ending contamination of the stream. The proposal, which is being reviewed by DER and EPA engineers, suggests digging a ditch around lagoons on the Nease property where the chemicals were sprayed and stored for drying.

The company proposal also suggests removing contaminated soils from the drainage area, Clista said.

Clista said DER will decide early next week whether the Nease Chemical proposal is adequate.

Until the negotiations between Nease and DER are completed and the company begins its clean-up program, contamination of Spring Creek will continue.

Evans said legal action should be taken against Nease. "There is a problem if Nease Chemicals gets by unscathed," he said. Public pressure against the company is

needed, he added.

Clista said the company has been cooperative thus far and there have been no discussions about fines. But, fines are always a possibility, he said.

Larry Miller, EPA chief of water monitoring, agreed. When you get to the point where everyone has signed on the dotted line, you find out just how cooperative they are," he said. "Nease Chemicals is not at that point yet," he added.

EPA last week advised fishermen not to eat fish taken from Spring Creek which exceed 12 inches. The Pennsylvania Fish Commission announced Wednesday that it will not stock trout downstream from the Route 26 bridge. Prior to fishing season, the commission stocked that section of the stream with fish not exceeding 12 inches.

Ralph W. Abele, commission director, said EPA had requested discontinuing trout stocking in the lower section of the stream. Evans said this action will put stress on the upper section of the stream where there is already a problem with abutting landowners complaining misuse of their land. He said fishing on the downstream side of the plant should be limited to fishing for fun.

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